

BASEBALL AN ARTISTIC AND FINANCIAL FAILURE.

Horse Racing and Other Pastimes Hurt the National Game.

EVIL OF INEBRIETY.

From an artistic standpoint professional baseball was a decided failure in 1900. From the viewpoint of popular patronage and approval it had quite an unsuccessful season.

Not since its firm establishment in popular favor in 1875 has professional baseball had as unsuccessul a season as it had in 1900. While it is true that, owing to fierce competition in 1899 and 1901, inflation of salaries and expense accounts, the club owners lost more money than they did in 1900, it is also true that not in any year was the inexplicable failure of patronage so manifest as it was in 1900.

This public apathy was all the more remarkable when it is considered that never were the teams of the National League so thoroughly well constituted to please the patrons of the game and attract their patronage. As a matter of fact the various clubs never appeared so well matched in playing strength, never contained so many brilliant and attractive players or fewer bad ones. Then, from a commercial standpoint, the era was prosperous. Money was plentiful and the game was in its heyday.

Even that greatest of all clubs, the most wonderful baseball team that was ever put together, the Brooklyn Club of 1900, failed to attract paying patrons in either home or away games. With everything in its favor the great national sport at first dragged, shone but dimly, flickered and went out in most dismal fashion. With one exception, every game was an unsuccessul season as it had in 1900. While it is true that, owing to fierce competition in 1899 and 1901, inflation of salaries and expense accounts, the club owners lost more money than they did in 1900, it is also true that not in any year was the inexplicable failure of patronage so manifest as it was in 1900.

From this it may be argued that American care but little for perfect exhibitions of the game; that what they want is to see their home team win, irrespective of merit of performance. This it would seem to be the case in the Brooklyn team win. It has been said that if Brooklyn was in New York it would be well patronized by New Yorkers of civic pride. This it would seem to be the case in the Brooklyn team win. It has been said that if Brooklyn was in New York it would be well patronized by New Yorkers of civic pride. This it would seem to be the case in the Brooklyn team win.

Artistically the season was a flat failure. Beyond the marvelous efforts the Brooklyn Nine made to create a public interest in an artistic sense. With the exception of Brooklyn, every other team in the League played brutally stupid and unclean ball. This is not to say that the Philadelphia club did not play better than the other teams. It is to say that the Philadelphia club did not play better than the other teams.

Baseball philosophers and statisticians have made many explanations for the falling off in patronage and interest in the game. Most of the journalistic cranks accuse the club owners of alienating public support by their egotistical assertion of themselves in public relations. They blame the owners for eliciting their players to rowdyism, for being field by acts of short sharpness, by allowing umpires to be abused by players. All these explanations are puerile and unworthy.

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